

Ms. Carol Webb
Hearing Officer
Illinois Pollution Control Board
1021 N. Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19274
Springfield, IL 62794-9274

PC35

RECEIVED
CLERK'S OFFICE

DEC 03 2007

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

Dear Hearing Officer Webb:

May I extend to you my gratitude for hearing all sides of the siting issue for the Hazardous Waste Landfill on November 6, 2007. I appreciated your hearing everyone who wished to speak regardless of age, gender, ethnic background or other outward appearances. Your incite in hearing such directly-opposed and passionately-charged entities helped create a feeling of safety and equality despite great differences in power and affluence in the individuals present.

This may well be the most important issue presented before you in your lifetime. People were cautioned by Peoria Disposal Company's lawyer to stick to the single issue of whether or not Peoria Disposal Company was indeed, the generator of the waste in question for siting purposes. (This logic was closely followed by their subsequent claims to be a pollution control facility).

Wisely, you seemed to allow the possibility that the question was not as simple as portrayed and that the issue had many facets, as opponents of the Hazardous Landfill siting proceeded to point out.

I stand by my comments, and wish to take them further and to clarify. The facts are that mistakes were made in the past which allowed a facility to operate that is gravely unsafe to the population nearby. That the facility is located over the San Cody Aquifer—which is not only the main water supply to the area, but a link to Kickapoo Creek, which runs to our beautiful Illinois River, which runs into the mighty Mississippi River. Many of the elements in the hazardous waste which have been and are presently being stored by millions of tons in trenches over the San Cody Aquifer, do not dissipate and are subject to leaking given natural erosion. Although PDC's "process" may or may not slow erosion; once these harmful elements get into waterways, the effects can be far-reaching, causing cataclysmic chain reactions. The macabre numbers of diseases and lead poisonings in the area already hint at some of these consequences.

We know the Illinois River is at risk because of its proximity to the underground waterways. We know of the threat to humans and the teeming wildlife, some of which utilize the Illinois River flyway for their migratory flights. We know that the Illinois River flows into the Mississippi not so very many miles away.

Stay with me as I quote regarding the Mississippi River:

"It is not a commonplace river...Considering the Missouri its main branch, it is the longest river in the world—four thousand three hundred miles....No other river has so vast a drainage-basin; it draws its water-supply from twenty-eight states and territories; from Delaware on the Atlantic seaboard, and from all the country between that and Idaho on the Pacific slope...The Mississippi receives and carries to the Gulf water from fifty-four subordinate rivers that are navigable by steamboats, and from some hundreds navigable by flats and keels. The area of its drainage-basin is as great as the combined areas of England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Austria, Italy, and Turkey, and almost all this wide region is fertile; the Mississippi valley, proper, is exceptionally so."

Life on the Mississippi by Mark Twain, Chapter I, "The River and Its History"

There continues to be heavy barge traffic to this day from the Illinois River to the Mississippi River. Can you imagine the potential impact of natural erosion, or God forbid, a disaster, which would infiltrate these deadly elements into our rivers flowing into so many adjoining rivers and states of this United States? This would be and is already the beginning of a national disaster! It may or may not be in our lifetime, but it is just biding its time to happen. The kill of fish and migratory birds on the Illinois River alone, would impact all the other rivers and states.

"You're creating mass hysteria." PDC may say. "It will never happen." And they'll go through how their "process" has fixed everything and put it all safely to bed. I'm amazed to think that they have miraculously come up with a solution to solve all the hazardous waste problems of the world with their various processes. If it's that easy and foolproof, I'm sure the other states would just as soon keep their hazardous waste instead of paying collectively millions to bring it to our little aquifer.

I'll close with what is the only sane thing to do.

We've made a mistake allowing this "monstrosity" to be built over our aquifer. The only way to stop the impact of the damage is to stop it now. We need to call for an IMMEDIATE STOP WORK. Allowing thousands and millions MORE tons of hazardous waste into the area as we quibble about siting regulations, or the interminable flavor-of-the-month appeals are only making the problem worse and more painful to address.

With PDC making a million a week and more (that's all they have declared), they could take off work and appeal day and night and still not run out of time or money. It's worth it for them to continue as long as the appeals keep the doors open and their very lucrative business running with such catastrophic consequences! Those of us who allow this insanity to continue are just as responsible for the subsequent damage to our city and to our country as they.

I'm calling for courage and for the hard truth to finally be spoken and acted upon.

Sincerely,

F. Christine Ozuna-Thornton
11700 N. Riverview Road
Chillicothe, IL 61523
(309) 579-3376